[Sri. A. J. John]

in our dispensaries. The lump sum provision of Rs. 10 lakhs in the Medical Budget for this year has also been made use of for supplying more medicines and surgica and other instruments to the hospitals and for carrying out urgent works of repairs and maintenance to buildings which were being neglected for want of adequate funds.

33. A new spacious and well-furnished Pay-ward has been opened in the General Hospital, Trivandrum. An up-to-date building for the Ophthalmic Hospital at Trivandrum is nearing completion. It is expected that the Avittam Thirunal Hospital at Olloor, will be completed before the end of next year. A new women and Children's Hospital will be opened shortly at Alleppey and extensive additions costing about Rs. 2 lakhs will be made to the Hospital at Trichur.

Tuberculosis Control

34. *B. C. G. Vaccination Work.*—We have made great strides in the anti-tuberculosis campaign. B. C. G. Vaccination work was started in Nagercoil Municipal Town and suburbs in July 1942. It was extended later to Trivandrum, Quilon, Mattancherry, Kottayam, Alwaye, Changanacherry and Pulinkunnu. There are 6 teams working at present. Special arrangements have also been made to enable the public to get vaccinated at the Public Health Laboratory at Trivandrum.

35. *T. B. Clinic, Trivandrum.*—An up-to-date T. B. Clinic will be established in Trivandrum with the generous assistance of the World Health Organisation authorities, who have consented to supply, free of cost, equipment worth more than Rs. 6 to 7 lakhs. This Clinic will serve as a demonstration and training centre. The Foreign personnel has already arrived and the Clinic will start functioning immediately.

36. *T. B. Sanatorium.*—The construction of the T. B. Sanatorium at Mulakunnathukavu and the T. B. Clinic at Palluruthy has been completed and they began to admit patients early in October 1950. The Mulakunnathukavu Sanatorium, which is constructed and equipped on the most modern lines, will provide accommodation for 150 patients and has facilities for adequate expansion in future. Government have already spent about Rs. 10 lakhs on the construction of this Sanatorium and the estimated cost of the works remaining to be done is about Rs. 9 lakhs. A provision of Rs. 1 lakh is included in the budget for next year.

Public Health

37. *Maternity and Child Welfare.*—The scope of midwifery service in the State is being increased steadily from year to year by establishing midwifery centres in the rural areas. At the time of the last budget session in March 1950, there were 174 such centres functioning. During this year five more centres have been started. The main difficulty which is felt in the more rapid expansion of this service is the lack trained personnel. A class for training midwives to meet the immediate needs of the Medical, Public Health and Village Uplift. Departments has been completed during this year and obout 55 duly qualified candidates will be available for appointment as midwives in the Public Health and Village Uplift Centres. Additional centres will be opened immediately. It is proposed to place a trained Lady Doctor in charge of the entire work, assisted by trained Health Visitors in different parts of the State. Arrarngements have already been made to get a suitable candidate trained for the work at the Medical College, Culcutta, during the next session.

38. *Rural Water Supplies.*—This scheme which was started in 1947 has, as its main object, the sinking of wells in the rural areas to provide drinking water to the population. Till April 1950, 140 wells were sunk at a cost of Rs. 2·3 lakhs and

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13 more wells at a cost of Rs. 27,000 have since been constructed. A Public Health engineer, specially trained in the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health is now attending to the scheme of sinking of wells.

39. *Milk Distribution.*—The scheme for the free distribution of milk to undernurished children and expectant mothers which was practically stopped from April 1950 due to want of supplies, was revived from August last year with the help of a free gift of nearly 4½ lakhs of pounds of milk powder by the UNICEF. At present 205 free milk distribution centres are functioning, including the five major hospitals of Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam and Ernakulam and the Ayurvedic Hospital, Trivandrum. The scheme was extended to the primary schools also and 100 schools in Travancore and 50 in Cochin are now getting the benefit of free distribution of milk. Arrangements have been made to extend the benefit of the scheme to 300 primary schools and 7 nursery schools. The generous assistance of the UNICEF has come to us at a time when, on account of the scarcity of food grains, we are in great difficulties about maintaining the health standards of our people, particularly the undernurished children and I take this opportunity to convey to them the sincere appreciation of this Government for their timely help.

40. *Malaria Control.*—In the budget of 1950—51 a scheme costing of Rs. 3½ lakhs per annum was sanctioned by Government for starting State-wide Malaria control measures. As a result a general fall in the incidence of this disease has been observed in the State as a whole. It is hoped that very soon this scourge will be brought under complete control and wiped out. A provision of Rs. 3·66 lakhs is made in the budget for the next year for the prevention of epedemics like Malaria, Plague and Cholera.

41. *Filariasis Control.*—In the budget for the current year there is a provision of Rs. 1,32,000 to continue the filariasis control measures in Shertallai and Ambalapuzha taluks and to extend the work to parts of Karthigapally taluk where the incidence of this disease is fouud to be very high. A scheme for filariasis control, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research has been sanctioned and a provision of Rs. 20,000 is made for the purpose.

42. *Cholera*—There was a serious and widespread epidemic of cholera in several parts of the State, particularly in South Travancere, Shencottah, Knttanad and Chittur taluks. The Public Health Department took prompt measures to bring the epidemic under control by means of mass vaccination and about 3 lakhs of people were protected. As a result, the incidence of the epidemic in this State was very low. The epidemic is now under control in the State and the protective measures are being continued to prevent a fresh outbreak.

43. *Leprosy.*—A sum of Rs. 0·73 lakhs has been provided for the survey and treatment of leprosy.

44. *Rural Sanitation.*—It is also proposed to take up during the next year a scheme for the mass construction of latrines in rural areas. The Public Health Engineer is preparing the designs for various types of latrines suitable for the different types of soil. An intensive drive for construction of Sanitary latrines in rural areas will be organised next year and advice and assistance given to house owners. A provision of Rs. 70,000 is made in the next year's budget for the purpose.

Medical College

45. The construction of the Medical College building was started in January 1950 and is progressing ahead of schedule. The estimated cost of the whole scheme is Rs. 54 lakhs. It is hoped that the construction of the building could be completed and the College opened this year. A sum of Rs. 25 lakhs is included in the Budget for the Medical College.

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